

# Session 1 - Beginning with Stories

In this session, you will listen to stories from LGBTQ+/SSA<sup>1</sup> Christians, as well as watch a documentary about Conversion Therapy. The total required viewing for this session is about 3 hours. There are many more recommended resources including books, podcasts, and films.

## Guiding Questions

- 1.) Is sexual orientation a **choice**? Do people choose to be gay/lesbian/etc?
- 2.) Can someone **change** their sexual orientation with prayer, therapy, willpower?
- 3.) Is being gay primarily/only about **sex** and sexual temptation?
- 4.) Is **celibacy** a choice, a gift, or a curse?
- 5.) Did your understanding change at all after hearing peoples stories?
- 6.) As you listen to peoples stories, how does your heart respond? Are you able to see the image of God in these stories? Do you see the fruit of the Spirit in any of the lives of these storytellers?

## Required

### Stories (1 hour 8 minutes)

Justin Lee (15m) - [https://youtube.com/watch?v=a\\_FqndcGmKI](https://youtube.com/watch?v=a_FqndcGmKI)

Christopher Yuan (8m) - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RI2\\_HsBZOic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RI2_HsBZOic)

Sam Allberry (10m) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4pmYB9IWPK>

Tim Ouyang (35m) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n60AMKONdR8&t=1796s>

### Films

*Pray Away* Documentary (1h41m) (Streaming on Netflix)

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<sup>1</sup> LGBTQ = Lesbian, Gay Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Queer. SSA = Same Sex Attracted

# Recommended Resources

## Films

Boy Erased (Streaming on Netflix)

*Biopic of a young man attending Christian Conversation Therapy, really well done*

I Am Michael (Streaming Free on Tubi)

*Biopic of a Gay Rights Activist who becomes a heterosexual Pastor*

## Stories

Vicky Beeching (6m) - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i\\_U8T-vY6hU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_U8T-vY6hU)

Jackie Hill Perry (4m) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKZNstmc9Qg>

Paula Stone Williams and Her Son (13m) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9NZCWeBNPeE>

Lianne (7m) - <https://vimeo.com/591188415/c0b44a5381>

Cameron - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UVrmbokRtk>

Rosaria Butterfield - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KbOAXxz77w&t=400s>

A collection of Stories from 2009 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVswuw3bJns&t=1s>

## Books

Torn: Rescuing the Gospel from the Gays-vs.-Christians Debate by Justin Lee

*Affirming Gay Christian - Side A*

Affirming: A Memoir of Faith, Sexuality, and Staying in the Church by Sally Gary

*Affirming Lesbian Christian - Side A*

Heavy Burdens: Seven Ways LGBTQ Christians Experience Harm in the Church by Bridget Eileen Rivera

*Celibate/Traditional Lesbian Christian - Side B*

Washed and Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness and Homosexuality by Wesley Hill

*Celibate/Traditional Gay Christian - Side B*

Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgendered Christians

by Austen Hartke

*Stories of Transgender Christians*

## Podcasts

"[LGBTQ episode](#)" on The Liturgists Podcast (2h5m)

"[I Tried to Fast the Gay Away - The Pastor's Daughter](#)" on I Tried to be Straight Podcast (59m)

"[Worship Leader Comes Out and Gives it All Up - Réналd](#)" on I Tried to be Straight Podcast (45m)

## Other

[LGBTQChristianStories](#) Instagram Account